

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are currently pending in this application. Claim 13-21 have been cancelled without prejudice. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 7,101,353 to Lui et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 1 recites a tearable hemostasis valve comprised in part by a snap-fit arrangement coupled to a distal end of the valve body, wherein the snap-fit arrangement is adapted to couple onto an outer surface of an annular hub of a proximal end of a tubular medical device, wherein said snap-fit arrangement comprises a cavity disposed in said valve body; and an annular sidewall defining an opening in communication with said cavity, wherein a diameter of said opening is less than a diameter of said cavity. (Underlining added for emphasis only). Applicant respectfully submits that Lui et al. do not disclose or suggest the recited claim elements.

The examiner alleges that FIG. 35 of Liu et al. includes a snap fit arrangement coupled to a distal end of the valve body that couples onto an annular hub of a tubular medical device as recited in claim 1. More specifically the Examiner argues that Lui et al. teaches a hemostatic valve that snap-fits both over and into a medical tube and therefore teaches all the limitations recited in the claims. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The valve of Lui et al. includes an interfacing region, typically located at the distal end of the valve assembly which is configured to permit the valve to be coupled or attached to a tubular medical device such as a sheath. As the Examiner notes the interfacing region of the hemostatic valve of Lui et al. is inserted into a proximal receiving chamber leading to passageway of an introducer sheath such that a contact surface of the valve seals against the inner wall of the passageway. The valve of Lui et al. further includes an outwardly tapered opening wherein a diameter of the tapered opening 134 is greater than the diameter of inner cavity 128. (Lui et al., col. 10, lines 39-45).

Lui et al. do not therefore disclose a snap-fit arrangement comprising a cavity disposed in said valve body; and an annular sidewall defining an opening in communication with said cavity, wherein a diameter of said opening is less than a diameter of said cavity as recited in claim 1. Rather the diameter of the opening in the valve of Lui et al. is larger than the diameter of the cavity. Moreover, the interfacing region of the Lui et al. valve is not adapted to couple onto an outer surface of an annular hub of a proximal end of a tubular medical device. Rather, the interfacing region of the Lui et al. valve is adapted to couple onto a medical device that does not include an annular hub but rather has a constant diameter body as seen in FIG. 35.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is novel and unobvious over Lui et al. and is therefore allowable. Applicant further submits that claims 2-12 that depend from claim 1 are allowable as is claim 1 and for additional limitations recited therein.

In light of the above claim amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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